

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated, claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 6-10 have been canceled.

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace the drawings shown in the Appendix. Figure 3 has been amended to correctly indicate the dividers element as 9 in the drawings. Figure 4 has been amended to indicate the plastic layer. Figure 1 has been amended to show that the two dispensing devices can handle different sized vases as described on page 5, lines 3-11 of the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the as described on page 5, lines 3-11 of the specification. One skilled in the art would clearly understand from the description and figures that a single common opening was included for the dispensing assembly.

All rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, have been overcome and are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartfield et al. in view of Wittern et al. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartfield et al. in view of Wittern et al and further in view of . These rejections are respectfully traversed.

There is no teaching or suggestion found in the cited references, alone or in combination, that meet the limitations of the independent claims. First, the independent claims require that flower vases are dispensed in the claims. Flower vases have unique problems for dispensing since flowers bouquets have different sizes and require different sized shapes for vases. Nowhere in the prior art is it indicated the fact that the dispensing device flower bouquets of different sizes exist or vending machines having different sized vases .

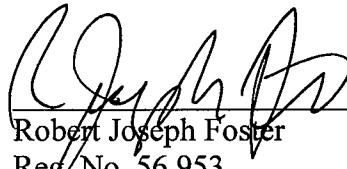
To solve this problem of needing different sized vases for applications, the independent claims include the limitation of each of the dispensing devices dispensing vases of a different size. The prior art does not show any devices with this limitation of multiple dispensing devices utilized to handle different sized vases.

The Examiner is using improper hindsight to modify the teachings of the reference to result at the claimed invention. There is simply no suggestion to modify the dispensing assemblies in Bartfield et al or Wittern et al to provide a dispensing assembly with multiple dispensing devices to handle vases of different sizes.

Since Bartfield, Wittern, and Greshkin, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections of the pending claims.

Any additional fees required in connection with this communication which are not specifically provided for herewith are authorized to be charged to the Deposit Account No. 50-2638 in the name of Greenberg Traurig LLP. Any overpayments are also authorized to be credited to this account.

Respectfully submitted,



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